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unrivaled. The large use made of these sources is, indeed, the most striking feature of the volumes, and is wholly consistent with their character as studies in imperial history, on their positive side portrayals of British policy, and only on their negative side a treatment of American affairs. The books are carefully though somewhat dryly written, accurately printed, and fully indexed. From some of their judgments and conclusions, and especially from some of their suggestions as to the future, it would be easy to dissent. But prophecy is the most gratuitous of human errors, whether in author or in reviewer. And so long, at least, as Mr. Beer adheres to the facts of the past, the hall mark of competent scholarship is plainly stamped upon all that he writes.

CHARLES H. HULL.

Cornell University.

Progressive Pennsylvania. By JAMES M. SWANK. (Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company, 1908. Pp. viii, 360. \$5.)

The scope of this book is best stated in Mr. Swank's own words, in the sub-title: "A record of the remarkable industrial development of the keystone state, with some account of its early and its later transportation systems, and its prominent men." Not content with giving his own reminiscences and the facts connected with the later industrial development of Pennsylvania—in which the author has had an intimate and active part as secretary and general manager, for thirty-six years, of the American Iron and Steel Association—Mr. Swank has painstakingly compiled a complete industrial history of the state. While there is much that is of value and interest in the first third of the book, which deals with the early history of the state, and in the last third, which portrays the achievements of some of Pennsylvania's noted sons, the chief merit of the book is to be found in the middle portion. This describes the development of the transportation systems, and especially of the great iron and steel industries which have made Pennsylvania prosperous and famous. It is an extremely interesting story as Mr. Swank tells it, for the large use made of personal names gives it a human interest and introduces us to most of the men identified with

this field of industry. It is in this connection that a criticism may be made: in the account of the marvelous industrial development of Pennsylvania too much emphasis has been laid upon the personal and legislative factors—for Mr. Swank is an ardent protectionist—and too little on the existence of unexcelled natural resources. But the latter could be described by any industrious investigator; the former can be given their due weight only by a man as well informed as Mr. Swank. The book is patriotic, optimistic, and full of personal interest. To the economic historian it is extremely valuable. It is to be hoped that other men may be stimulated by this example to record their share in the industrial development of the country.

Princeton University.

ERNEST LUDLOW BOGART.

A History of the English Agricultural Laborer, By W. HASBASH, Professor of Political Economy in the University of Kiel. Translated by ROTH KENYON; prefaced by SIDNEY WEBB. (London: P. S. King and Son, 1908. Pp. xvi, 470. 7s. 6d. net.)

An estimate of the character of this economic history can best be got after pointing out that the author is foreign to the country studied and has admirably avoided any bias. His first edition appeared in 1894. Since that time he has gone into the subject much more exhaustively and has brought his study down to 1907. Commenting on the appearance of the book, Sidney Webb says: "It can hardly be considered a credit to England that it should have been left to a foreigner to write the history of the English agricultural laborer, and to trace out the sequence of events which have so completely divorced him from any proprietary interest in the land that he tills or in the produce of his labor. In spite of the facts that the materials for such a history were abundant and easily accessible, and that the subject has for thirty or forty years been one of social and political interest, none of the schools of history of our universities has produced a student with the necessary zeal and capacity to do the work that lay at hand."